GOOD ADVICE AND COUNSEL,

Given forth by

Joseph Sleigh

Of the CITY of

DUBLIN,

In the Time of his Sickness,

TO HIS

CHILDREN:

And since his Death, it being thought fit for the Service of others also; therefore it was ordered into Print, that other Children, *&c.* may have the Benefit thereof.

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DEVONSHIRE HOUSE
Friends Reference
BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT

Advice from a Father in the time of his Weakneſs of Body, unto his Tender Children.

My Dear Children,

REmember your Creator in the Days of your Youth, in your young Years, before the Enemy of your Souls draw your Minds out into the Wickedneſs and Ungodlineſs of the World, to defile your Hearts and Minds with the Wickedneſs and Profaneneſs thereof; and ſo harden your Hearts in Sin and Ungodlineſs; which will bring Wo and Miſery upon your Souls, and Anguiſh of Spirit, and Bitter Lamentation, and provoke the Anger of the Lord againſt you. This is the Work of the Deſtroyer of Souls, the Devil, who goes about like a roaring Lion, ſeeking whom he may devour. And no ſooner Children grow up to Years of Underſtanding, but this Enemy comes to tempt them, and draw

them into evil, and into thoſe things which are contrary to the pure Mind and Will of the Lord; ſome into one thing, and ſome into another, according as they are naturally inclined; ſome to Wildneſs and Rudeneſs, ſome to Pride, ſome to Stubbornneſs and Self-conceitedneſs; ſome to one Vanity, and ſome to another. This is the Work of the Deſtroyer.

Therefore, my Children, my Advice to you in tender Love is; that you wait upon the Lord in the ſtilneſs and coolneſs of your Minds, in the ſilence of all Fleſh, or fleſhly Thoughts or Cogitations, that you may receive Wiſdom and Strength from the Lord, to withſtand the Enemy of your Souls: For, as it is written in the Scriptures of Truth, *They that wait upon the Lord, ſhall renew their Strength*; for none are able to overcome the Enemy, but they that know the renewing of his Strength; for *of your ſelves* (as Chriſt ſaid) *you can do nothing*: And an overcoming there muſt be, or elſe no entring into that Reſt, which is without End.

My

My Dear Children, you have Immortal Souls that ſhall never Die; but ſhall be ſenſible either of Everlaſting Joy and Felicity with the Lord, and with the Godly in Generations paſt, in the Kingdom of Unſpeakable Glory for evermore; or for ever feel the Anger and Indignation of the Lord with the VVicked and Ungodly, in Hell, in Eternal VVo and Miſery, which is a deplorable State.

And as there is but theſe two States for the Soul to remain in after Death; the one Joy and Comfort, the other VVo and Miſery: So there are but two ways, the one is the ſtrait and narrow way that leadeth to Life, the other the broad way that leadeth to the Chambers of Death: So you ſee there is but one way to Life Eternal, even the ſtrait and narrow way; although you will ſee many ways in the VVorld; one ſaying, This is the way, another ſort ſaying, Nay, but this is the way: And ſo various ſorts of Religions in the VVorld, every one crying up their ſeveral Notions to be the way to the City of Peace and Reſt, which (upon your

your viewing of it in your Minds) may raiſe Doubts, and cauſe ſome Conſiderations in your Minds. And from the conſidering of things you may reaſon within your ſelves; here are many ſorts of Ways and Religions in the World, and all pretend to be the right VVay; and how ſhall we do to know the one right VVay amongſt thoſe many VVays? For there is but one right VVay, and we may ſpend all our Days in running from one Religion to another to find the right Way, and may miſs of it at laſt; and ſo lay down our Heads in Sorrow.

Anſwer. Chriſt ſaith, *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life*; and it is ſaid in the Scriptures of Truth, that Chriſt enlightens every one that comes into the World: And when Chriſt talked with the Woman at the Well of *Samaria* about Worſhip, and the Place of Worſhip, (there being, at that Day, a difference between the *Samaritans* and the *Jews* about the Place of Worſhip, as appears by the Womans words to Chriſt, when ſhe ſaid, *Our Fathers worſhipped in this Mountain, and ye ſay that*

that in Jeruſalem *is the place where Men ought to worſhip)* Chriſt ſays, *Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye ſhall neither in this Mountain, nor yet at* Jeruſalem, *worſhip the Father. Ye worſhip ye know not what: we know what we worſhip: for Salvation is of the* Jews. *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true Worſhippers ſhall worſhip the Father in Spirit, and in Truth; for the Father ſeeketh ſuch to worſhip him. God is a Spirit, and they that worſhip him, muſt worſhip him in Spirit, and in Truth,* John 4. 20,21,22,23,24.

So this is the true way to worſhip the Father, ſet up by Chriſt Jeſus the Shepherd and Biſhop of the Soul; the Spiritual Worſhip which is to continue: And *Paul* ſaith, *What may be known of God, is made manifeſt in them.* And Chriſt forbids to run after thoſe who turn Peoples Minds outward, to look for the way to the Kingdom, *ſaying, Lo here, or lo there: for behold, the Kingdom of God is within you,* Luke 17. 21.

Now if the Kingdom be within, of neceſſity muſt Man's Guide be there alſo;

ſo; as the Apoſtle ſays, *Try your ſelves, prove your ſelves; know ye not how that Chriſt is in you, except ye be Reprobates?*

So here is Chriſt, the way to the Father, near in your Hearts, to guide, teach, admoniſh and reprove, and to juſtifie thoſe that are his Faithful Followers: So if you want Counſel, you may wait in the coolneſs and ſtilneſs of your Minds, and Counſel you will receive. If you be like to faint in your Travel, Chriſt the Way, will be as the Shadow of a mighty Rock in a weary Land: If you be thirſty, he will be to you as a Well of Water to refreſh your Souls; if you hunger, he will feed you with the Bread of Life, and clothe you with his Spirit: And if you keep the word of his Patience, he will preſerve you in the Hour of Temptation.

But it may be objected and ſaid, How ſhall we know the Teachings of Chriſt by his Spirit in our Hearts, from the Suggeſtions of the Enemy of our Souls; which is alſo a Spirit?

Anſwer. That which reproves thee in ſecret for Evil committed by thee (when no Eye, it may be, ſaw thee) is

is the Spirit of Truth, which leads into all Truth, and Righteouſneſs, and leadeth thoſe who give up to be led by it, into the paths of Holineſs, without which none ſhall ſee God, (as ſaith the Scriptures of Truth) and condemns Evil Thoughts when they ariſe in the Creature, before they come forth to Actions; and leads Men to deny all Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, and to live godlily and ſoberly in this preſent World; and teacheth People to be true to God, and alſo to Man; and to deal honeſtly with all Men; and to do to every one, as they would have every one do to them.

And this good Spirit teacheth Children to be Dutiful to their Parents, and teaches Servants to ſerve their Maſters faithfully, (not as Eye-ſervants, but as knowing there is an All-ſeeing Eye that ſees all things:) It leads into all good, and is the Author of all good; and as the Beams of the Sun that ſhines into our Houſes comes from the Sun, and draws to the Sun again, being its Center; ſo this meaſure of Divine Light, that proceeds from the Sun of

Righteouſneſs, ſhines into the Hearts of the Sons and Daughters of Men; and directs (by the Beams or Rays of its Glory) to Chriſt the Fulneſs; ſo brings People into the Nature of Chriſt; and ſo ſuch become true-born Chriſtians, born of the Spirit, and led by the Spirit into that which is ſober, and of a good Report, and into that which adorns Chriſtianity, (to wit) a good Life, and a blameleſs Converſation; for that's true Religion that viſits the Fatherleſs and the VVidow, and keeps themſelves unſpotted of the VVorld [mark that]. But the wicked Spirit, the Enemy of Man's Good and Happineſs leads into all manner of VVickedneſs, leads Children to diſobey their Parents, to be falſe to their Maſters, to be falſe to their Neighbours, to be heady and high-minded, Lovers of Pleaſure more than Lovers of God; leads to Strife, Envy, Malice, Murthers, Adultery, Theft, and all manner of Evil, in order to deſtroy the Soul.

And ſo by this (my dear Children) you may know the right Spirit from the

the wrong; as a Tree is known by its Fruits, and a Fountain by the Water it brings forth; *Can a Fountain bring forth both ſweet Water and bitter?* As ſaith the Scripture by way of Queſtion: So, in ſhort, the one leads into all good, and the contrary into all evil.

And theſe Miniſters that direct Peoples Minds to the meaſure of Light and Grace in their own Hearts, and teach People to love the Light, and obey the Light, that they may be Children of the Light; and to wait in that which manifeſts Sin and Evil, and be ſubject to its leadings and guidings, that Power may be received to overcome Sin and Evil; that ſo the Works of the Devil may be deſtroyed, and a Victory in the Dominion of the Spirit, and Power of Truth, may be known over all Sin and Uncleanneſs, that Chriſt may rule and reign in your Hearts; (theſe are the Miniſters of Chriſt whoſe Kingdom is Love, Peace, and Joy to the Soul) and that this was the end of Chriſt's coming to deſtroy the work of the Devil, and to preſent Men to the Father without ſpot or wrinkle,

or any ſuch thing; and that nothing that is unclean enter the Kingdom of Heaven, (as ſaith the Scripture) and direct People to Chriſt the Biſhop and Paſtor of their Souls, that they may witneſs Power from him to overcome the wicked One; and ſo bring not only to the Form of Godlineſs, but to the Power alſo; and for their Service and Labour of Love, deſire no Man's Silver or Gold, or Apparel; but bear their Teſtimony (according to the Scriptures) againſt thoſe that Preach for Hire, and Divine for Money, and ſeek their Gain from their Quarter, and eat the Fat, and clothe with the Wooll, and prepare War againſt thoſe that will not put into their Mouths; whoſe God is their Belly, whoſe Glory is their Shame, who love and ſeek earthly Things; and live in Pride and Idleneſs by the Sweat of Poor Mens Labours, and matter not what become of their Souls, and preach up Sin term of Life; and do not obey Chriſt's Commands, who ſaid to his Miniſters, when he ſent them out, *freely you have received, freely give*; and as the Spirit ſaid through the

the Prophet, *every one that is thirſty come and buy Milk and Wine without Money, and without Price:* I ſay, theſe Miniſters as hold forth this Doctrine as aforeſaid (in a pure Life and Converſation, in the movings of his Spirit) are the Miniſters of Chriſt, as aforeſaid: But they that tell People, they muſt ſin term of Life, and it is impoſſible to overcome the Devil; but People muſt live in ſin ſo long as they live in this World, and it cannot be otherwiſe: Contrary to the Scripture, which ſaith, *If we walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, then have we Fellowſhip one with another; and the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt his Son cleanſeth us from all ſin;* and *John* bore Teſtimony of Chriſt, that *he was the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sins of the World:* And his Name was called *Jeſus*, becauſe he ſhall ſave his People from their Sins, not in their Sins; for all Sin is of the Devil, and they that plead for Sin, plead for the Devil's Kingdom, and are his Miniſters, and not the Miniſters of Chriſt; for Chriſt and his Miniſters preach'd up Holineſs, and Righteouſ-

neſs, and Innocency; and endeavoured to bring Man up into that ſtate in which Man was before he fell: *The firſt Man* Adam *was of the Earth earthly; but the ſecond Man was the Lord from Heaven, a quickening Spirit* (as ſaith the Scriptures) to renew and quicken Man, who was dead from God by reaſon of Diſobedience, and brings Man again into that ſtate and image that he was in before he fell; and ſo into that Love and Unity with his Maker, which he had in the beginning, before *Sin* was, and before there was any Preachers up of *Sin* and Diſobedience, term of Life: For the firſt that preached up Diſobedience to God's Commandments (which are holy and good) was the *Serpent*, the Devil, the Enemy of Man's Happineſs; and he did it under a pretence to pleaſe that Mind that would fain have Liberty to Evil, ſaying, *they ſhould be wiſe as God's, knowing good and evil*; and by giving way to that *Sin*-pleaſing Doctrine, Death came over their *Souls*: So theſe Prieſts, or Teachers, that preach up *Sin* and Diſobedience, term of Life; they

they may ſee their Original, the Serpent; and if they repent not, but continue in their obſtinacy, and evil ſerpentine Doctrine, they will come (with him) under the Curſe and Indignation of God, as the Serpent did.

So my Dear Children, have a Care of theſe Deceivers, and rather chuſe (with good *Moſes*) to endure Affliction with the People of God, than to Enjoy the Pleaſures of Sin for a Seaſon; for they that will live godly in Chriſt Jeſus muſt ſuffer Perſecution.

As I have given you ſome marks before of Falſe Miniſters, (which are Teachers of the Falſe Church): So here is another mark that you may be certain of, to be a mark of a Falſe Church, and that is, Perſecution about Religion; for the True Church never did perſecute, but was perſecuted, and ſuffered Perſecution in all Ages, by the Falſe Worſhippers, who had the Form of Godlineſs, but denied the Power; from ſuch we are commanded to turn away.

So Dear Children, where-ever you ſee this mark, you may conclude thoſe

to be Falſe Worſhippers, and a Falſe Church; and *Cain* that Murthered his Brother (about Religion) to be their Forerunner, (being led by his Spirit) and the Reward of *Cain* they will have, (if they repent not) which is, to be driven out from the preſence of the Lord, and to become a Vagabond, and be made to cry out, (as *Cain* was) *My Puniſhment is greater than I can bear.*

The Spirit of Chriſt, that dwells in the true Church, teacheth his People to love their Enemies, to do good to thoſe that hate them, and deſpitefully uſe them, that they may be the Children of their Father which is in Heaven; for he maketh his *Sun to riſe on the evil, and on the good; and ſendeth Rain on the juſt, and on the unjuſt*, Mat. 5. 44, 45. and to deſire the good of all, even the Salvation of their Souls, according to Chriſt's Command, when he was in the Body of Fleſh upon the Earth.

So, my Dear Children, through the Love and Deſire that is in my Heart for your Souls good, that you may come to live the Life of the Righteous,

and

and ſo have the Righteous Reward, which is Peace and Joy, and Unity with the Lord to all Eternity; and that when you come to lay down your Heads in the Duſt, you may have Peace with the Lord, which is of more Value than an Earthly Crown.

My Heart is opened to write theſe few Lines unto you, to leave behind, as a further Legacy of my Love unto you, which (as ye come to Years of Underſtanding) I deſire you to read and conſider, in the ſame Love that moved me to write this, and to leave it behind me, and let it have an impreſſion upon your Spirits, as the Advice of a loving and tender Father.

My Dear Lambs, fear and love the Lord above all things, and ſeek firſt the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Righteouſneſs thereof, and all other things the Lord will add, and he will bleſs you with his Bleſſings, and will provide for you, and be a tender Father unto you; and you ſhall want nothing that is good for you, but your Heavenly Father will provide it for you, as you keep in his Fear, in the Humility of your

your Souls, in a Heavenly Dependency upon him the Giver of all good.

And, my Dear Lambs, as you grow up to Underſtanding, let your Minds be upon Heavenly Things, and wait upon the Lord, that you may feel his Power and Life, that will ſeaſon your Souls, and draw your Affections Heavenward, into Sobriety, Chaſtity, and Moderation in every thing, both in your Eating, Drinking, Apparel, and in every thing elſe that you may make uſe of in the Creation, that the Lord God of my Life may bleſs you.

And, Dear Lambs, have a care of letting your Minds out, to mind and take delight in the Pleaſures and Vanities of this World, which will endure but for a Moment, in Compariſon of Eternity: And if you feel the Enemy drawing, and laying before you the Pleaſures of this World, in order to draw your Minds from God; wait upon the Lord in that which ſhews you that they are the Suggeſtions of the Enemy of your Souls, and the Lord will give you Power to withſtand him, and od teny his Temptations; for the ſame

that

that manifeſts Sin, will (as you wait in it upon the Lord) give you power over Sin; for the Spirit and Power of God in Man hath more power (as Man gives up to be led by it) to preſerve from Sin and Evil, than the wicked Spirit hath to draw into *Sin*; as, ſaith the *Scripture*, *Greater is he that is in us, than he that is in the World.*

So, my Dear Lambs, wait upon the Lord, that you may ſee him in all his Appearances; for he is a Deſtroyer, and goes about like a roaring Lion ſeeking whom he may devour.

So, as you tender the good and happineſs of your *Souls*, be faithful to the Lord in all *States* and Conditions; and keep Company with thoſe that fear the Lord; and be willing to receive the Advice of ſuch in all your Undertakings: And if it be ſo ordered, that you be *Servants* to any, get into honeſt Families, thoſe that fear and love the Lord; that you may be inſtructed and brought up in that which is good; and be faithful, true, and honeſt in your *Services*, and be ſubject to thoſe you may ſerve, in all honeſt and lawful things,

things, and then the Lord will bleſs you, and you will be a Bleſſing in the Family you dwell in, and good Example to your Fellow-ſervants, which is well-pleaſing to the Lord.

And if it be ſo ordered, that you, my Sons live until you be Men, and that you deſire to Marry, my Advice to you is, that ye mind from what ground your Love ſprings; and conſider things well in the Fear of the Lord; and be not taken with every thing that may ariſe in your Hearts; but be willing to be adviſed by ſuch whom you judge do fear the Lord: In that weighty Concern, have an Eye to Virtue more than outward Riches in your Choice of Wives.

And you, my Daughters, if it be ſo ordered of the Lord, that ye live till you come to Womens Eſtate, be not ready to receive every one that may proffer Love to you, as in relation to Marriage; but wait upon the Lord for Counſel and Advice; and take Advice of thoſe who you judge do fear the Lord; and keep your ſelves ſober and chaſte in the Fear of the Lord; and

no

no doubt but you will do well. My Will and Deſire is, that you all be adviſed in all Things and Concerns, that are any thing weighty, by my Executors and Overſeers, who (I hope) will be ready to give their Advice.

And when you come to keep Families, and have Dealings and Trading in the World, have an Eye to the Truth, that you may do nothing to diſhonour it; but in your Trading and Dealings you behave your ſelves uprightly and juſtly to all Men, that ſo by your holy Lives and Converſations Truth may be well ſpoken of, which will cauſe the Lord to bleſs your Endeavours. And if Riches increaſe, ſet not your Hearts upon them; but do good with them, having an Eye to the Giver: And keep in a holy dependency upon the Lord; and in all States learn to be Content, and keep your Eye to the Lord over Exerciſes and Troubles, inwardly and outwardly, which you may meet with in this World, that your Conſciences may be preſerved without offence towards God and all Men, that in the end you may lay down your

your Heads in peace with the Lord, which is better than a Thouſand Worlds.

So, my Dear Lambs, I would have you read theſe Lines over often, and obſerve them, that your Souls may be preſerved from hurt; being written in Dear Love to your Souls, from your Tender Father,

Joſeph Sleigh.

Dublin, the 11th Month, 1683.

A Teſtimony concerning Joſeph Sleigh *of* Dublin, *who Departed this Life the Second Day of the Sixth Month*, 1683. *about the Fortieth Year of his Age.*

AS for our Friend and Brother, who is taken hence before us, I have this to ſay of him, That ever ſince I knew him; being about Fourteen Years paſt (ſince I came to live in *Dublin*) I was ſenſible his Love and Reality was ſo much to the Bleſſed Truth he profeſſed, as to prefer it before any Man or Thing he was concerned in: For he loved the Honour of

of the Lord, and his pure Truth, which never conſented to any *Sin* or Evil, which cauſed me to have a very near love to (and unity with) him. He ſtood a faithful Witneſs in his Day (according to his Call and Meaſure) againſt Deceit in Profeſſor and Profane, yet a great Lover of the Faithful, and Deſirer of Unity amongſt Brethren. I never perceived him apt to differ with any about outward things, which he accounted Trifles in compariſon of the heavenly Riches, which I am ſenſible he much prized, and loved to ſee others proſper therein: For my own part, in all my Intimacy with him, (which was very great, as I can remember) I always found him Zealous for Truth, his Behaviour being ſweetned with the Spirit of Truth: He lived and deceaſed well, and was in the long and tedious time of his Sickneſs born up by the Truth he loved, in much Comfort and Patience, waiting the Lord's appointed time for his Deliverance into Eternal Reſt. And ſtill his remembrance liveth in my Heart, and that he is entred into the Eternal Habitation of Reſt, is ſealed

ed in my Spirit ; and doubtleſs its a good Motive and Encouragement for the Faithful to perſevere in well-doing to the end, that the Crown of Eternal Life may be their Portion, which is not only laid up for him, but for all the Righteous that love Chriſt's Appearance.

He left his Ancient Mother, and Five Children (Orphans) behind him, which he carefully and wiſely diſcharged himſelf towards, as to his outward Eſtate ; and he having left good Counſel and Advice to his Children, given forth in Manuſcript in the time of his Sickneſs, his ſaid Mother deſired it ſhould be put into Print, which was unanimouſly agreed to by Friends of our Mens Meeting in *Dublin*, for the Service of them intended, and others that may reap Benefit thereby.

The Righteous are taken away from the Evil to come, and few lay it to heart.

And though the Lord has taken ſo ſerviceable a Member from us, yet he can raiſe up more (and I hope will) whereby his Name and Truth may be honoured upon the Earth ; *Not unto us, not unto us, but unto the Name and Power of the Lord over all, be Praiſes, and Renown, who is Worthy for Ever and Ever*, Amen.

FINIS.